

Dr. Leon Sullivan who was one of the outstanding international leaders of our day. As a matter of fact, I recall some 25, 26 years ago when I was visiting in East Africa, and one of the first things I saw was an OIC center in Nairobi, Kenya. That is an indication of the kind of reach that Dr. Sullivan had.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to an important group of institutions in our communities, institutions that often go unrecognized, and, that is, our public libraries across the United States of America. This institution has served as an intellectual playground where young people explore their dreams. And for many of us, this institution has served as our think tank, where we go to formulate master plans for personal growth and development, where we go and relive our hopes for success.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to interact with three libraries in my congressional district, the one in Bellwood, Illinois; the one in Maywood, Illinois; and the Chicago library, the Harold Washington Library, in Chicago. Behind these walls, meticulously preserved are the thoughts, data, theories, and dreams that were generated by countless people who have greatly impacted our society. And so today I decided to simply recognize National Library Legislative Day.

There are approximately 122,289 libraries in the United States. A significant number of these libraries are free and available for public use. As an American, I am proud and pleased to live in a country that prioritizes giving access to information and knowledge.

We have all heard the phrase "knowledge is power" and yes, it is. It is not just the building or even the books that make the library so special. Day in and day out, libraries provide a smorgasbord of information that is needed by the general public. They provide guidance in a child's academic endeavors. They lend a helping hand to adults seeking to expand their knowledge base. And today libraries have been in the forefront of helping to close the digital divide by providing computer and Internet training to community residents. Indeed, libraries are multifaceted institutions.

We salute them for their commitment. We commend their excellence. And we are grateful for their guidance. We praise them on this special day and say, long live our libraries, so that long can live freedom and democracy in our country.

HONORING REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we funeralized a hero of the American people and a hero of the world. And so I offer to his family and to the world, his world of friends, both national and international, my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the sad passing of our friend Reverend Leon Sullivan, an educator, minister, diplomat, civil rights leader, and yes, national treasure. I am so happy that in the course of the last year, Reverend Sullivan and myself were together. His love for life, his interest and his passion of working with the people of Africa, his concern on making sure that there is a synergism between the business communities of this Nation and of the Continent were alive and well. And yes, he was receiving an outstanding award from then President Clinton for his great humanitarian service, and he relished it and he loved it and yes, we loved honoring him.

As the Lion of Zion, the 6-foot-5-inch Reverend Leon Sullivan was a giant among men. Reverend Leon Sullivan was an activist, civil rights leader, business leader and pastor as I have previously said. Reverend Sullivan once said, "We must stand up with politicians and businessmen and women. We must stand up for those who need help to stand on their feet." He was the author of the Sullivan Principles, a set of guidelines for American businesses operating in South Africa under the apartheid regime. Although later largely superseded by the divestment movement, these principles laid a foundation for ethical business practices that continue to influence companies today.

The central premise of the Sullivan Principles was that American companies operating overseas should treat their workers there with the same fairness and equity that they practiced at home. He was a pioneer moving throughout this very difficult time, leading the way for then the major apartheid movement to come and finally crush that terrible and tragic time in our history.

The Sullivan Principles called for racial nonsegregation, fair employment practices, equal pay for equal work, improved housing, educational and health facilities for workers, and increased training and promotion opportunities for nonwhites who had been denied access under South African law and custom. He was trying to find solutions for what was then an insurmountable problem. He had faced discrimination at home. By the mid-1980s, most American companies operating in South Africa followed these principles before, as I said, we finally crushed apartheid.

As a child, Leon Sullivan lived in a segregated world where he was not permitted to sit at a counter in certain

stores or attend school with white students. Although he was elected Governor of Negro Boys State, he was not treated the same as his white counterpart.

About his experience he said, "I couldn't understand quite why I had to do things a certain way. My grandmother had to wash these clothes. She had to iron them and put them in a little basket and I had to put them in my red wagon and take them out to where the big houses were. When I walked up Washington Street, all the white children walked on the left side of the street and all the colored children walked on the right side of the street."

In 1987, Sullivan called for U.S. companies to withdraw from South Africa and for international trade and investment sanctions against the apartheid regime. He came to the conclusion that a more harsher and stronger viewpoint must be taken and that we must end apartheid then and end it now.

About his role in helping end apartheid, Sullivan said, "If you take a hammer and chisel and pound a rock 100 times, it's going to crack. I pounded it and it cracked."

After the fall of apartheid, Sullivan worked with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to encourage businesses to adopt the Global Sullivan Principles for Social Corporate Responsibility on a worldwide basis. About 100 American corporations accept these principles today.

In 1971, Mr. Sullivan became the first African American director of General Motors. As a member of the board of directors, he expanded minority hiring and business opportunities. He went on to build bridges. He continued to pastor the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia. They loved him greatly. He challenged the establishment. He continued to work on behalf of us all, and he did something even greater, beginning to put major conferences and summits on the continent of Africa, insisting that we travel to Africa to talk about the issues of health care, business opportunities, education, and yes, to enhance these developing nations.

Reverend Leon Sullivan knew what the 21st century would have to do. It would have to fight the war of HIV/AIDS and win that war. He was a champion of those issues. To the end, he was aware that the Continent was rich in resources and human resources and that in order for it to grow and thrive, we must embrace it, we must help it and enhance it but it must help itself. And yes, he embraced the fight against HIV/AIDS and helped Members of Congress to raise their voices against that terrible pandemic. He was a warrior and a lion. I will always remember his smile but most of all his fight for justice and equality and his love for humanity.

HONORING HELENE H. HALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helene H. Hale, a distinguished citizen of Hawai'i, whose extraordinary example of public service truly sets her apart.

I reprint here a copy of a Proclamation issued by County of Hawai'i Mayor Harry Kim on April 10, 2001, honoring Helene's many contributions to Hawai'i and recognizing a truly unique and remarkable woman.

COUNTY OF HAWAII PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Helene H. Hale has served the people of Hawai'i in various elective capacities for almost 50 years, and in at least one office in each of the past six decades: in the 50's and 60's as a County Supervisor, in the 60's as Chairman or Mayor of Hawai'i County, in 1978 as a delegate to the State's Third Constitutional Convention, and in the 80's and 90's on the County Council; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 82 years young, in the year 2000, she was elected to the State House of Representatives on the slogan "Recycle Helene Hale," becoming the oldest freshman ever elected to the State House, and she has taken State government by storm; and

WHEREAS, far from being a career politician, she has combined government service with other vocations, including wife, mother, college lecturer, bookstore manager, coffee grower, realtor, U.N. supporter, and founder of the Merrie Monarch Festival, and she has brought to each of these the same intelligence, wit, energy, and dedication which have marked her service in government; and

WHEREAS, Helene Hale has claimed many "First," including first female government official in Hawai'i since Queen Liliuokalani, first African American elected official in Hawai'i, first resident of Hawai'i on the cover of *Ebony*, first female chief executive of a county in Hawai'i, and the first octogenarian in Hawai'i to campaign for public office in a bathing suit, and

WHEREAS, Jeremy Harris, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, proclaimed March 23, 2001, as "Helene H. Hale Day" in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, Helene Hale is a resident of the County of Hawai'i, and her political career has been here, not in Honolulu, and we cannot allow Honolulu to steal credit for our Helene.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY KIM, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim (belatedly) March 23-29, 2001, as HELENE H. HALE WEEK in the County of Hawai'i, and extend belated best wishes for a Happy Birthday and many more in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 10th Day of April, 2001, in Hilo Hawai'i.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to talk about health care and my concern that in the first 100 days of the Bush administration, we have seen no action, effectively, on the major health care concerns that affect the American people, that my constituents are talking to me about and that many of my colleagues in Congress, in the House of Representatives, not only on the Democratic side but also on the Republican side, have identified, issues that we have identified as important that need to be addressed in this Congress. I want to mention three tonight. There are many, but I want to mention three, if I could: one is the need for a Medicare prescription drug benefit; the second is the need to reform HMOs, the so-called Patients' Bill of Rights; and the third is the mounting problem of so many Americans, maybe 45 million Americans at this point, who have no health insurance.

Before I get to those three points, though, I probably should point out that the President's budget sends sort of a defining message with regard to health care by essentially not only dealing with some of these problems effectively but also by threatening through the size of the tax cut that he recommends, which is primarily for the wealthy and corporate interests, to possibly raid or effectively raid the Medicare as well as the Social Security trust fund.

So I guess there is no reason why we should be under any illusions, if you will, that President Bush effectively wants to address some of these health care issues when the reality is that his budget probably would harm health care, particularly for seniors, by tapping into the Medicare trust fund and certainly doing nothing that would improve the future viability of that trust fund. I know that we may be addressing the budget tomorrow or Thursday or sometime in the next week or so, and that is one of my major concerns, that the budget proposal through the tax cut proposal would dip into the Medicare trust fund and affect its future.

But I want to get back to the three issues that I wanted to address tonight that are health care-related and talk a little bit about each of those, if I could. One of the major problems that my constituents talk about, and I know it is true for all my colleagues because we have talked about it on the floor and we have had many discussions, the fact that so many seniors today are negatively impacted due to the cost of prescription drugs.

In my own State of New Jersey and in many States, we have enacted legislation that would provide prescription drug benefits, some more generous than others, depending on the State, for low-income seniors. But Medicare, which, of course, is the main health

care program, the health care program that most seniors rely upon, that is universal, does not include a prescription drug benefit. You may be able to get it if you have an HMO, but increasingly the HMOs do not provide prescription drug benefits or very limited benefit.

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So what we see is more and more seniors taking money out of their pockets to pay for increasingly high costs for prescription drugs.

I happen to chair our Democratic Health Care Task Force where we took up this issue, but many of my colleagues on the Democratic side, and certainly some on the Republican side as well, felt that we needed to provide a prescription drug benefit in the context of Medicare so that all seniors, not just low-income seniors but middle-income seniors who are impacted probably more than anybody else, because in most States there is no benefit for them, there is no protection for them, need to have this kind of a benefit.

The Democrats came up with a bill which we introduced in the last Congress, and I just want to summarize that if I could, the major features of that bill, to get an idea of the type of prescription drug benefit that I think we need.

First of all, the Democratic bill, called the Prescription Benefit Act of 2000, was universal and voluntary; established a voluntary prescription drug benefit program for seniors and disabled in Medicare beginning in 2002.

Enrollment is voluntary when a senior or disabled person first becomes eligible for Medicare or if and when they lose coverage from an employer, an HMO plan, or Medicaid. Enrollees would receive Medicare payments for covered drugs from any participating pharmacy and are charged negotiated discounted prices on all of their covered drug purchases regardless of whether the annual benefit limit has been reached, the idea being that we want to pool all the seniors in a Medicare benefit so that the cost of prescription drugs is significantly less.

In terms of the benefit, the proposal that the Democrats put forth last year would pay for at least 50 percent of the negotiated price for the drug, up to 50 percent of annual limits equal to \$2,000 through 2002 to 2004, and it goes up to \$5,000 to 2009, and then adjusted for inflation. So 50 percent of the cost from the first prescription that one buys and then up to \$5,000. There was a catastrophic benefit beyond that that one would not pay anything.

The main thing I want to point out, though, is that this was a universal benefit. What the Democrats have been saying is that everyone in Medicare should be eligible for a prescription drug benefit. That is because most of the people that are complaining to us